

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO 4684 ABGP SONDRESTROM AB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR OCLR DA GL

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT USE OF SONDRESTROM AIR BASE

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 2625

B) 4684 ABGP SONDRESTROM AB DTG 011635Z MAY 75 (NOTAL)

1) AT THE MEETING WITH EINAR KALLSBERG, CHIEF OF MFA'S OFFICE OF FAEROESE AND GREENLAND AFFAIRS, OTTO LARSEN, AND LEGAL DIVISION REPS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (A), KALLSBERG ALSO BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE APPLICATION OF USAF REGULATION 55-20 (HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT-INSURANCE COVERAGE, ETC.) AT SONDRE STROMFJORD AFB. IN MAY 29 CALL AT MFA, EMBOFF HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT AT REQUEST OF THE USAF SONDRESTOM AIR BASE COMMANDER WHO IN REFTEL (B) INQUIRED AS TO THE STATUS OF DANISH DELIBERATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. BACKGROUND: IN 1973, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT REQUESTED THE USG TO WAIVE PAPERWORK AND THE 30-DAY ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF AFR-55-20 AT SONDRESTROM AFB. THE USG AGREED TO DO SO PROVIDED THE DANES WERE PREPARED TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE USG FROM ANY DAMAGES INCIDENT TO AUTHORIZED USE OF SONDRESTROM BY COMMERCIAL AND CIVIL
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AIRCRAFT (STATE 288941 OF MAY 10, 1973). IN AUGUST 1973,

THE DANES, BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, INFORMED
THE USG THAT THEY HAD TO CONSIDER THE MATTER
(COPENHAGEN 1851 OF AUGUST 7, 1973).

3) KALLSBERG STATED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WAS NO
LONGER INTERESTED IN PURSUING ITS ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR
EXEMPTION FROM THE AFR 55-20 REQUIREMENTS, AND WOULD
PREFER SIMPLY TO LET THE MATTER DROP. EMBOFF AGREED TO
REPORT THIS DESIRE TO THE US GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES
CONCERNED.

4) JENS FYNBO OF ROYAL GREENLAND TRADE DEPARTMENT (RGTD)
EXPLAINED IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF THAT
THE DANES' ORIGINAL REQUEST WAS MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE
TO MAKE SONDRESTROM A MORE POPULAR INTERNATIONAL AERO-
DROME. IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, THIS PURPOSE HAS RECEDED IN
IMPORTANCE, HE CLAIMED, AS REYKJAVIK AND GANDER HAVE
LARGELY CAPTURED THE TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAFFIC.
LUKENS

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